

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

21 November 1984

>INVESTIGATION/>JENNINGS: We have an update and a clarification of an ABC >CIA>News report. Two months ago, we broadcast two reports about the CIA's connection with an accused swindler named Ronald Rewald and the affairs of his bankrupt Honolulu investment company. The CIA has admitted involvement with Rewald, but it strongly denies one aspect of our report. We interviewed a former prison guard named Scott Barnes, who charged, in a sworn statement, that the CIA has employed him and planned to kill Rewald while he was in prison. The CIA says Barnes' charge was totally false and denied any relationship with him. ABC News continued to investigate. We asked Barnes for further evidence to support his charge. He was unable to provide it. We made other efforts to corroborate his charge and they also failed. Finally, we asked Barnes to take a lie-detector test, but he refused. So ABC News has now concluded that Barnes' charges cannot be substantiated and we have no reason to doubt the CIA's denial. After notifying the CIA that we were going to make this clarification, the agency, late this afternoon, filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission that our report was distorted and violated the Fairness Doctrine.